

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid-impermeable back layer;

a liquid retentive absorbent member, interposed entirely between said top layer and said back layer, said absorbent member being arranged to form (a) an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said top layer and extend along the longitudinal edges, said pair of barrier cuffs being formed by integrally folding only a single absorbent sheet and said top layer, and (b) a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs, said projecting portion being formed by an absorbent pad.

2. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are 1 mm to 10 mm in thickness.

3. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are arranged away from each other, and elastic members are provided at inward side edges of said barrier cuffs located along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs such that

said barrier cuffs are shrunk along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs over a prescribed length.

5. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent sheet has a thickness of 0.3 mm to 5 mm, and an almost entire surface of said absorbent sheet is overlaid with said top layer.

6. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent sheet has a thickness of 0.3 mm to 5 mm; and

said absorbent sheet of said barrier cuffs is folded in an overlapping, serpentine configuration.

7. The absorbent article according to claim 5, wherein said absorbent sheet is obtainable by interposing a superabsorbent polymer between a pair of paper, nonwoven fabric or a combination thereof, or by admixing a hydrophilic fiber, a superabsorbent polymer and a binder, and forming the admixture into a sheet-like shape.

8. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes means for bonding portions adjacent to said barrier cuffs to said back layer, and said barrier cuffs are spaced apart from said back layer.

9. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein said means for bonding portions adjacent said barrier cuffs to said back layer includes at least one of an adhesive agent and heat sealing.

10. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent article includes means for bonding said top layer to said liquid retentive absorbent member.

11. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said means for bonding said top layer to said liquid retentive member includes at least one of an adhesive agent and heat sealing.

15. (AMENDED) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent sheet supports said absorbent pad, and said absorbent sheet is disposed between said absorbent pad and said back layer.

19. An absorbent article comprising:

- a first liquid-permeable top layer;
- a liquid impermeable back layer;
- a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed entirely between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;
- a second liquid-permeable top layer;

a second liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said second liquid-permeable top layer and said first liquid-permeable top layer, said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, said pair of barrier cuffs being formed by integrally folding a single absorbent sheet and said second liquid permeable top sheet, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs.

20. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An absorbent article comprising:

a first liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid impermeable back layer;

a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed entirely between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;

a second liquid-permeable top layer;

a second liquid retentive absorbent member enclosed by said second liquid-permeable top layer, said second liquid retentive absorbent member includes a single planar pad and an auxiliary pad, said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, said pair of barrier cuffs being formed by integrally folding said single planar

pad and said second liquid-permeable top sheet, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs;

means for securing said second liquid-permeable top layer to said first liquid-permeable top layer; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs, said projecting portion being formed by said auxiliary pad.

21. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said absorbent member.

22. (AMENDED) The absorbent article according to claim 19, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said first absorbent member.

23. (AMENDED) The absorbent article according to claim 20, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said first absorbent member.

24. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent member does not extend to the longitudinal edges of said top layer.

25. The absorbent article according to claim 19, wherein said second absorbent member does not extend to the longitudinal edges of said first top layer.

26. The absorbent article according to claim 20, wherein said second absorbent member does not extend to the longitudinal edges of said first top layer.

Please add the following claim:

--27. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a portion of said absorbent member extends further toward the longitudinal edges of the top layer than said pair of barrier cuffs.--